fare between Kerala and! Gulf sector despite comparatively existing high fare in this sector;

(b) if so, what are the reasons f°r hike in this region; and

(c) what remedies Government proposa to take to remove anomalies created by the Air India dfespite the distance being shorter than Bcenbay-Oulf?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL, AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) With effect from Octo cer, 1385 the fares on the India-Gulf sector have been increased by 4 per cent.

(b) The increase has been necessita ted due to escalation in the opera tional costs.

(c) The Bombay-Gulf distance is not shorter than 'the Trivandrum-GuJf distance. Even otherwise it is not always possible to establish fare levels in direct proportion to the route distance. Other factors such as aggregate capacity deployed, compe titive condition.; prevailing in (he market, lhe need to develop tourist traffic, the economic conditions exist ing in the concerned markets, ete. also govern the determination of fare levels. In view of these factors and fheir varying impact on differ ent routes, fares per mile unit differ on different sectors.

Conversion of Rainnagat-Moradabad rail line

2445. SHRI KRISHNA NAND JO-SHI; Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleassd to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1079 given in tlie Rajya Sabha on the 7th March, 1384 and state:

(a) what progress has so far Wfen made with regard to conversion of tb» Moradabad-Romnagar nul line;

Ob) what is ihe amount sanctioned for thic, project durnig the current financial year;

(c) whether it is a fact that rgw Government of Uttar Pradesh bas in the recent past requested the Cen tral Government for the expeditious completion of the project;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when it is likely to be com pleted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE. IN . THE DEPARMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HADHAVRAO SEINDIA): (a) The physical progress js about 35 per cent.

(b) Pks. LW crores.

(C) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh has written letter and has also personally discussed the sub ject.

(e) It<j completion will depend *o>i* availability of resources in the om-ing years.

Platforms at Guwahati

244G. SHRl (MOLANA) ASRARUL HAQ: Will ihe Minister of TRAHS-PORT be pleased to state;

(a) how many platforms were available for passenger traffic before construction of broad gauge line up to Guwahati;

(b) whether the Department of Railways had directed vide their let ter No. 84/TGIJI/4G1/7 dated the 31st July, 1584 to give permission to big contractors to set up bookstall?' only on those existing platforms! which wer<: replaced due to gauge conversion; and

(c) what are the. reasons thai or ders were floutedulw plotting a book stall to a big contractor on newly constructed platforntg number 6-7, at Guwahati, wiiich v/Ss. to be given to unemployed' jtradusrtes? '

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Tht: information ls being tollectcd and will be laid on the TaWe of the Sabha.

Loans for acquisition, replacement and modernisations of ships

2447. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD; Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state-

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian National Shipowners Association (INSA) hac, urged Government for the continuation of soft loan financing for acquisition, replacement and modernisation of ships; and

(b) if so, what are the detailg and what steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL); (a) and (b) The Shipping Development Fund Committee providev, fnnds for acquisition, replacement and modernisation of ships at low interest ,ates and with longer oeriods of amortisation. The Indian National Shipowners" Association have ur,ged the Government for the continuation of these soft loan financing arrangements for shipping development in the Seventh Plan also.

Water scarcity at Tinsukhia station

2448. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is acute -scarcity oi' drinking water supply at Tinsukhia station and its railway colony; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to provide alternative source of water supply there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Ye?, Sir.

(b) A work of providing a Water Treatment Plant for improving the quality of water and an open well af 9 metre dia and 12 metre deep to augment water supply with suitable additional storage are already sanctioned and the work is in progress-

Talk with the GuU Airlines Authorities and Government of Dubai

2449. SHRl GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of TRANS-i PORT be pleased to state: ‼

(a) whether it is a fact that a dele gation headed by the Secretary in the Department of civil Aviation had talks with the Gulf Airlines authorities and Government of Dubai;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Gulf Airlines and newly formed air lines of Government of Dubai ie, like ly to have more flights to India now than there prio$_r$ to the formation of j airlines by the Dubai Government; and

(c) whether Air India propose to operate any additional flight to Gulf countries after the talks?

THE MINISTER QF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir. A delegation headed by Secretary, Department of Civil Aviation, visited Bahrain and Dubai for bilateral air talks from 12 to 15 October, 1985 with the Government of Gulf States.

(b) Yes, Sir. Combined frequency and capacity entitlements of Gulf Air (designated carrier- of U.A.E. except. Dubai, Qatar, Oman and Bahrain) and 'Emirates' (designated carrier of the Emirate of Dubai) are marginally higher than the entitlements which wer$_e$ available to Gulf Air along in term$_s$ of the old arrangements determined some years back.

<o) No, Sir.